

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 28 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023 at 03:24 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Wednesday, although some uncertainty in the timing of the rise in freezing levels in the afternoon. High for changeable weather to continue into the weekend.

Headline for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023: Stormy with widespread heavy snow, drier later.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Blizzards

High Likelihood

Gales

High Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow

High Likelihood

Severe chill effect

High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

No Likelihood

Storm force winds

High Likelihood

Poor visibility

High Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
					
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Hail	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability					
50%	>95%	>95%	70%	30%	30%

Forecast for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Weather: Widespread heavy snow will develop by mid-morning, this lasting until late afternoon. Snow will turn to rain as it clears away, with some showers of rain, sleet and snow following on behind. Very treacherous conditions expected widely with gusty winds across all upland areas.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance for much of the day. Low cloud will clear from the southwest in the evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Whiteout conditions expected in snow for much of the day with extensive cloud down to 500 metres. Markedly improving as cloud clears in the evening but some mistiness still likely.

Forecast for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)				Wind Direction (blowing from)		
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	55/65 E	67/81 E	59/75 E	31/40 E	29/36 S	34/43 SW	29/37 SW
900	51/61 E	64/77 E	56/72 E	31/40 E	27/34 S	32/40 SW	27/35 SW
600	37/47 E	47/60 E	41/57 E	26/36 E	17/24 S	18/27 SW	16/24 SW
300	8/43 E	14/57 E	14/53 E	11/30 E	3/20 S	5/26 SW	5/24 SW
Glen	23/46 E	30/59 E	30/58 E	22/36 E	10/22 S	11/25 SW	9/21 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-4/-17	-3/-15	-3/-14	-3/-12	-1/-9	-2/-10	-2/-10
900	-4/-15	-2/-14	-2/-13	-2/-11	-1/-8	-1/-9	-1/-9
600	-1/-11	-0/-10	-0/-10	-0/-8	2/-4	1/-5	1/-5
300	1/-3	-0/-6	-0/-6	0/-5	2/-0	3/0	2/0
Glen	4/-2	2/-5	2/-5	3/-3	6/2	6/2	5/2
Freezing Level*	300m	400m	400m	400m	900m	800m	800m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

A very treacherous day across all ranges with heavy, drifting snow and storm force winds. Speeds may reach 100 mph across Sutherland for a time in the afternoon. A thaw of lying snow is likely for as freezing levels start to rise, so burns and paths at lower levels may see some flooding across the southwest of the area. Freezing levels may rise to 1200 to 1500 metres across Skye, more western parts of Lochaber and Wester Ross for a time in the afternoon with a quicker transition to rain or sleet here. Then freezing level more widely becoming 800 metres as the evening progresses.

Forecast for Thursday 28 Dec 2023

Weather: Mostly cloudy with some showers or longer spells of rain, with snow above 700 metres or so. Turning drier from the north in the evening. Cold summit winds.

Maximum wind: Southerly 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, best chance in the morning

Low cloud and visibility: Very good outside of cloud and precipitation. Areas of cloud between 600 and 900 metres, this most extensive in the afternoon.

Temperature: **Glens:** Minus 1 rising to 4 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: 900 metres